



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Kevin Duffy, Commissioner
Doug Mecum, Director

Lower Yukon Area Office
P. O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
(907) 949-1320
Tracy Lingnau, Area Management Biologist

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Radio Report #07. Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, June 19-21, 2003.

This is Tracy Lingnau with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries announcement for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The next commercial fishing period in District Y-1 will be from 6:00 p.m. Saturday June 21 until 12:00 Midnight Saturday June 21. This will be a 6-hour commercial salmon fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. To repeat, a commercial salmon fishing period will be allowed in District Y-1 from 6:00 p.m. Saturday June 21 until 12:00 Midnight Saturday June 21. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. All subsistence gillnets must be out of the water by 12:00 Midnight Friday June 20, 18 hours prior to the commercial fishing period. District Y-1 subsistence fishers may begin subsistence fishing 12 Noon Sunday, June 22, 12 hours after the commercial fishing period has ended.

For subsistence, the current board of fish schedule will be relaxed, and revert to the pre-2001 subsistence fishing regulations for District Y-3. Subsistence fishing will be open Sunday June 22 at 8:00 p.m. in District Y-3. After June 22 at 8:00 p.m., subsistence fishing will be open until further notice. District Y-2 subsistence fishing is open until further notice. Subsistence fishers are reminded that the requirement to remove the dorsal fin of subsistence caught chinook salmon is in effect for Districts Y-1, Y-2, and Y-3.

Approximately 11,000 chinook and 800 summer chum salmon were harvested during the first commercial fishing period in District 1 and approximately 7,500 chinook and 200 summer chum salmon for the first period in District 2. The preliminary season total for Districts 1 and 2 is 18,500 chinook and 1,000 summer chum salmon.

The chinook salmon set gillnet test fishing project cumulative CPUE through June 19 is 15.83. When adjusted for run timing, this is above the previous two years of 2001 (11.95) and 2002 (14.59). Pilot Station Sonar passage estimates to date are 147,000 chinook salmon and 182,000 chum salmon. The chinook salmon passage is well above the season ending total of approximately 89,000 in 2001 and 112,000 in 2002. In both 2001 and 2002, a commercially harvestable surplus was available.

The summer chum salmon run is beginning to develop. At this time, the run seems to be of similar strength to last year.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult State of Alaska commercial fishing regulations before fishing in the Yukon Area.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak 949-1320. The Fish and Game office stands by on VHF channel 7a.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

___ KICY 443-2213

___ KNOM 443-5221

___ KYUK 543-3131